517 529 northern Formosa for a country weekend. Only the poor have little time, money, or leisure for these pastimes. But the workers 517 in the cities amuse themselves by playing upon the hu-ch'in, a two-stringed fiddle, or singing folksongs, as well as granting themselves a short holiday at the time of local festivals. For rural workers, a shopping trip to a nearby city affords the greatest pleasure and provides them with subjects for idle talk when they have opportunity to visit with neighbors.

E. Annual Festivals

• 527 The primary recreational outlet for the people of Formosa is active participation in public festivals. The majority of Chinese festival days are observed on the island, particularly in the rural districts. The New Year is a time of family reunion as well as a time to propitiate the gods and do reverence to the dead.[5] The festival lasts for fifteen days, and daily offerings are made to the household gods and to the family's ancestors.

5. The festivals are celebrated according to the lunar calendar, which lags about one month behind the Gregorian calendar.

527 Members of the family who live at a distance revisit the home. Poorer families, who seldom eat meat during the year, have feasts during the New Year's festival, even if it means slaughtering the family pig or a number of hens.[6] Formosans also celebrate the Dragon-boat Festival on May 5 and the Moon Festival on August 15. The birth of Confucius, the birthday of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and the anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Republic are national holidays. Government offices and schools are closed and there are memorial ceremonies.

574 The family itself celebrates marriages and births with elaborate feasts for relatives and friends. Funerals are also a time for large gatherings; a feast is usually provided for those who walk with the procession and attend the rites of burial.

796 Many religious ceremonies provide additional opportunities for celebrations. A day devoted to Matsu, goddess of travel, is remembered. Her traditional importance to the Formosans may be attributable to the protection she offered those who made the

6. Low-income groups eat little meat except at festival times. Raper, op.cit., p. 274.

465 Overtime is paid at time and a half. National holidays are observed.[4] Actual practice, however, diverges from the above provisions in some cases. National holidays are only generally observed. In government agencies and enterprises, banks, schools, and other public institutions the eight-hour-day principle stands. However, in most mines and factories 10 hours or more a day and 6, 5 to 7 days a week are usually the rule.[5] Low wages force employees to work long hours.

Wage payments include money wages, payment in kind, and in most cases free housing. However, the level of wages is low, and workers' receipts are generally inadequate to meet their necessary expenditures. A survey made by the FOA Mutual Security Mission revealed recently that nearly half of the workers in a coal mine were in debt, and 48 per cent of the money borrowed was spent on food.[6]

•527 4. National holidays include: January 1, Founding of the Republic of China; March 29, Martyr's Day and Youth Day; August 27, Birth Day of Confucius; October 10, "Double Tenth"--National Day; and November 12, Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Birthday.

000 5. China News Press, Chung-hua Nien-pao, 1953 [China Annual, 1953], Taipei, 1954, Vol. II, p. 115.

6. FOA Mutual Security Mission to China, Project Evaluation Office, unpublished pamphlets based on 1954 survey.